

Art Therapy Online: ATOL

An International Journal of Art, Therapy, Politics and Culture

Following the launch of Art Therapy On-Line (ATOL) in 2010, this second issue includes a rich variety of historical, clinical and theoretical papers that explore, in different ways, the interface between art therapists, their patients and the art form.

David Edwards considers ideas around the experience of art therapists who aspire to write about their clinical work and the anxieties that this might generate. He discusses the tension that exists with writing when visual art forms are so much at the centre of the therapeutic relationship. He explores how the author/art therapist is faced with the question of how much to rely on the images or art forms to convey the essence of the work in their own right. This issue is clearly illustrated in a co-written paper about a client becoming herself through her art making. The authors were Kate Rothwell, an art psychotherapist, her psychologist colleague Lisa Hutchinson who worked in a verbal capacity using DBT (Dialectical Behaviour Therapy) and their client, Elizabeth. Elizabeth's story and the account of how she found her own voice through images is told alongside Rothwell and Hutchinson's account of their work with her. This is a remarkable clinical journey towards independent living for someone who had been sexually abused and placed in a medium secure unit for 24 years.

Jane Dudley's paper does not contain images; however, she describes the role of the images in holding and processing material for group members in a Median Art Psychotherapy group. She explores the structure, nature and dynamics of the Median Art Psychotherapy group and describes how the benefits of keeping the focus on the large group membership offers the opportunity for societal, cultural

class and political concerns to be considered. Finally, as promised, *Tropical Path (Part 2): The life and Work of Antonia Eiriz* by Dr Margaret Hills de Zarate provides a further fascinating account tracing the life and work of the Cuban artist in the context of the political and economic climate of Cuba from 1968 until her death in 1995 in Miami. Drawing on archival materials and interviews, her involvement with 'arte popular', a movement which some would argue was the birth of art therapy, and specifically one aspect of it, papier mache, is described.

Two book reviews and a conference report from Taiwan add different dimensions to this issue. There is also an obituary of the life and work of Dee Spring who was a peer reviewer for ATOL which describes her outstanding international contribution to our profession.

The editorial board of ATOL is very pleased to publish this second issue. Submissions for our third issue are currently being considered and we would welcome any enquiries about possible submissions, for our third and future issues. Contributions are especially invited from our international colleagues and readers so that we can continue to engage with diversity of thinking, clinical practice and multi-cultural development of all visual arts in therapeutic work around the world.

Tessa Dalley

On behalf of ATOL editorial board

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